



The
United
Reformed
Church

THAMES NORTH SYNOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Welcome to our News Roundup for 18 September 2025. The next two editions of this e-letter will go out on a Friday or Saturday as I will be on leave from 24 September to 7 October. However please continue to send me any news or events that you would like included.

Please circulate this widely so that the great events and opportunities here can benefit as many as possible. Please feel free to copy and paste any of this news for your own church's noticeboards or newsletters.

Events Diary

Youth Mental Health First Aid 22 September - 1 October

www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa

FaithTalk Webinar on Tuesday 23 September 2025 at 7pm Register at mission@urc.org.uk

Light on Friday 26 September 2025 at Lumen at 6:15-8:15pm. Book with Maggie Hindley m@maggiehindley.com

Online Quiet Day on 27 September 10:30am- 4:00pm. Book by clicking on this link: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-4/

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

Wild Goose Resource Group 3-5 October 2025 at St Albans URC
gilldotelliott@googlemail.com

Investing in Creation: the Role of Money in Tackling the Climate Crisis on Friday 10 October 2025 at 7:00pm at WUC Chapel Halls AL4 8AH

Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025

Godly Play Accredited 3 Day Training Powys, Wales 14-16 October 2025 judy.harris.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) 24-26 November 2025 at the Hayes Centre training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

For Goodness' Sake! on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 10.25am-4.30pm at Reach Conference Centre in Derby. [Book](#)

Meetings of Synod Dates/Venues -

18 October 2025 Venue: Lumen

21 March 2026 Venue: TBA

17 October 2026 Venue: TBA

Please note: Synod meetings are usually on the 3rd Saturday of March and October.

News



On Sunday the Moderator preached at Barking United Reformed Church which shares worship with the King's Church. The service was led by Revd Sujeeth Kumar who also played the drums!



A note from the Green Apostles



Most of our churches, if not all of them, host a Harvest Festival service during Creation Time. It seems, however, that harvests this year have been affected by changes in the weather caused by a changing climate.

In early August I went out with glee to pick blackberries but when returning in late August, when there are usually an abundance, discovered that there were no blackberries left. It has been an early harvest for fruits and nuts in Britain, all affected by the hot weather over the summer. On the farms too the cereal harvest came early, causing some serious gaps in overall production. This autumn, birds and animals may struggle to find the food they normally require at this time of year. We have yet to see the effects on wildlife populations overall.

As churches, could we include in our services a recognition that local harvests are being affected by climate change and the more we can do to combat that, the better. Please do send photos of any events you are organising during this Season of Creation to us at modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Jill Nugent, Green Apostle

North Enfield Pastorate of UR Churches Celebrations



On Sunday 14th September at Lancaster Road URC we celebrated that 4 members of our church family had been members of the URC for over 50 years. In addition to presenting certificates we celebrated after the service with cake. We also could celebrate with one couple who brought in their congratulations card from The King and Queen in recognition of their Platinum wedding anniversary.



We had an Open Day at Christ Church URC on Saturday 13th September 2025 from 10am-4pm to invite the community to see inside our wonderful building and help us to celebrate our 150th year. During the day there were guided tours, exhibits to celebrate the church's history and the missionaries sent from Christ Church. There was a stunning exhibit with wedding photographs sent in by people who had got married in the church; there was even a wedding dress. Refreshments were served throughout the day.



Then in the evening we were excited to welcome Pastor Rony Padilla and his friends from Union Church Totteridge, URC, who led a wonderful Praise and Worship concert for us from 6.30- 8pm. We were thrilled that people from other churches across Enfield joined us. This also gave us an opportunity to pray for London.

The evening ended with more refreshments and fellowship.

What's On



On Tuesday 23 September at 7pm we will host the next in our series of FaithTalk webinars. These are an opportunity to talk about how we share our faith with others, and this month we will focus on using the season of Advent and Christmas. We will hear about the ideas and resources that others have come up with, and look forward to gathering more, in what will be a light-hearted, relaxed hour together.

Please do share the flier in your networks and register for the link by emailing mission@urc.org.uk.

Please note that we will not be recording this session, but a list of helpful resources will be available shortly afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Lindsey

Lindsey Brown

Head of Ecumenical Relations and Evangelism | United Reformed Church



Theology of Worship Group

exploring the practice and nature of worship today

Exploring

Reflecting

Living

Liturgy: the work of the people?

Speaker - Revd Sue McCoan

Sue is a recently retired URC minister who served in pastorates in the Sutton Coldfield and West London areas. She writes hymns and prayers and recently served as one of the editors of the URC Prayer Handbook.

Date: Tuesday 4th November 2025

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. via Zoom

At this meeting she will be looking at the role of the congregation in shaping the worship of the church. How do we know if our worship is meeting their needs? What balance might we strike between being welcoming new ideas and maintaining theological integrity? Do we embrace the surrounding culture or stand counter to it? And how do we deal with different desires and competing needs within the congregation?

The Theology of Worship Group is an informal group of people interested in exploring the practice and nature of worship today. We hold three or four meetings a year when an invited speaker presents a topic followed by an opportunity to discuss in short groups and plenary.

Group meetings are open to anyone interested in the theology of worship in the church today. If you have not registered with the Group and would like to attend this meeting, please email the address below to receive the link -

rgoldring23@gmail.com



INVESTING IN CREATION: THE ROLE OF MONEY IN TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Guest Speaker:
David Britton
Campaign Officer
Operation Noah

Friday 10th October 2025
WUC Chapel Halls AL4 8AH
Refreshments from 7.00pm
Talk will start at 7.30pm



OPERATION NOAH

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

Online Quiet Day: Playing with God



27 September 2025 10:30am to 4:00pm

Venue: Online

Ticket: Free

Led by **Leslie Bailey** -(opening prayers),
Mark Argent and **Ann Barton**, and **Jane Weedon** (closing prayers).

The day draws its theme from part of the gospel for 27 September, which records Jesus predicting his death (again) and saying to the disciples: "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."

For some that carries an invitation to come to God "like a child" — which could be heard as "praying with one's inner child". For others that can feel like a more difficult space — particularly if there are uncomfortable memories or associations to childhood.

In biblical times those words could have been heard quite differently — perhaps as a challenge to the idea that power gets someone closer to God (or God is on the side of the powerful).

The invitation of the day is to spend some time in prayer away from our screens, and in discussion with others, to attend to what God may be saying to us.

Book by clicking on this link: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-4/

**You are warmly invited to
Lumen, 88 Tavistock Place, London
on Friday 26th September 2025,
6:15 to 8:15 pm for a screening of**

“Light”



**A film showing the work of Community Peacemaker Teams
in Hebron, West Bank Palestine.**

***“Where all other elements are controlled and rationed,
perhaps our light is the one thing that cannot be taken”***

**All are welcome. Free admission with donations to CPT
invited.**

Watch the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk0W3nqFZjl>

17.45 Doors open, tea/coffee

**18.15 Introduction by Rev Maggie Hindley, reservist with
CPT in Hebron**

18.20 *Light* (60 mins)

**19.20 Q and A with the film director, Ahmad Abu Monshar,
by Zoom from the West Bank.**

**Please book your place with Maggie Hindley
m@maggiehindley.org, 07545 130260**



Adeyfield Free Church, Hemel Hempstead

**Families' and Youth Worker
To oversee our church ministry to children,
young people and their families**

For a job description please email admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk
Closing date 6th October 2025

Safeguarding Training

Synod Training Dates 2025

To book a place on any of the training listed below, please email safeguarding@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

In person training is TBA and will be limited due to the timescales within my role and existing cover period.

E Learning

Foundation Training and Safeguarding Coordinators Training are available as e-learning courses.

Simply follow the links below to access the courses.

Foundation Safeguarding Training

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=24>

Safeguarding Coordinators Training

<https://www.urclearninghub.org.uk/course/view.php?id=70>

Advanced Safeguarding Training

Part 1 - Tuesday 16th September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Part 2 - Tuesday 23rd September 2025 - 6.30pm – 9.00pm

If you would like to keep your inbox clear, please feel free to unsubscribe at the bottom of the page.

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }} You received this email because you are registered with URC Thames North
<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/>



[Unsubscribe here](#)